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R E S T R I C T E D

WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION  
Office of Distribution  
Washington, D. C.

MONTHLY FOOD SUPPLY REPORT BY AREAS - MAY 1944

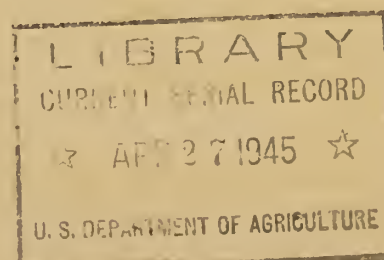
(Prepared by the Civilian Food Requirements  
Branch from 269 Food Supply Reports received  
from the five Regional Offices for the first  
week of May 1944.)

The over-all food picture at the beginning of May as shown by reports received from Regional Offices is very encouraging. Widespread shortages showed up only in canned and frozen fruit, canned fish, cheese, and apples. However, these commodities have all been short for some time, and there is little prospect of improvement. It is encouraging to note, on the other hand, that a number of commodities have moved from the unbalanced group to satisfactory in all five regions.

Changes since last month include some improvement in the evaporated milk situation in the South and the Southwest, but many areas in these regions still report shortages. The onion supply situation, which has been bad all winter because of a very small 1943 crop, has ceased to be serious with the appearance of the first of the new crop. Except for the choicer cuts of beef and veal, the meat situation seems to be fairly satisfactory. However, this survey was being made just at the time that most meat cuts were removed from the ration list, and, therefore, cannot be taken as a fair indication of the effect of point removal.

The report this month is set up somewhat differently from the March and April summaries. In order to avoid the necessity of referring back to the national list each time to determine the situation for a given commodity we have listed under each area all the items reported short or out of stock in the area. Any item not so listed is in adequate or surplus supply. Commodities most in need of remedial action are those which are short in certain localities although adequate in the country as a whole. These items are starred on the list.

This month's report includes detailed shortage information for 48 representative areas selected from the 269 areas submitting supply reports. For the first time supply reports were received from almost all areas in which Food Distribution Advisory Committees are functioning, and the forms submitted were generally complete and uniform. It is felt that this report presents a reliable analysis of the national food supply situation by areas and will be useful in dealing with food shortage problems.



I. THE NATIONAL FOOD SUPPLY SITUATION: Listing all items covered in Regional Food Supply Reports

A. Foods that are reported adequate by all five regions:

Grapefruit juice	Margarine
Canned asparagus	Lard (surplus in Northeast)
Canned dry beans	Shortening
Canned green and wax beans	Salad oils
Canned beets	Pork
Canned corn	Ready-to-eat meats
Canned peas	Sausage
Canned spinach	Variety meats
Canned tomatoes	Canned meats
Tomato juice	Syrups
Canned soups	Eggs (surplus except in South)
Jams	Milk, fluid
Jellies	Peanut butter
Fruit butter	Corn meal
Citrus marmalade	Corn grits
Frozen peas	Macaroni and paste products
Frozen corn (kernel)	Soy flour and flakes
Frozen string beans	Citrus fruit
Frozen spinach	Onions
Other frozen vegetables	Potatoes, Irish
Dried prunes	Other fresh fruits and vegetables
Raisins and currants	
Dry beans	

B. Foods that are reported inadequate or out of stock by all five regions:

Canned berries	Canned salmon
Canned cherries	Canned mackerel
Canned pineapple	Canned pilchards
Grape juice	Other canned fish
Pineapple juice	Cheese
Frozen berries	Apples
Other frozen fruit	

C. Foods that are unbalanced (adequate in some regions, inadequate in others):

Canned baby foods	Beef
Frozen lima beans	Veal
Butter	Soaps and soap powders
Evaporated milk	Canned fruit cocktail
Lamb	Canned peaches
Poultry	Canned pears
Canned plums and prunes	Tomato catsup
Rice	

II. LOCAL FOOD SUPPLY SITUATION: Listing all items reported as inadequate or out of stock in selected areas. Shortage items which are underlined are reported locally out of stock. Starred items, although locally short, are generally adequate in the five regions. All unstarred items, including those which are underlined, are either inadequate or in unbalanced supply in the five regions.

PORTLAND, MAINE

Canned fruit (all kinds)	*Frozen peas
Grape juice	*Dry beans
Pineapple Juice	Canned fish (all kinds)
Tomato catsup	Cheese (except cream and cottage)
*Tomato juice	Beef
*Jams	Lamb and mutton
*Jellies	*Syrups
*Fruit butter	Poultry
<u>Frozen berries</u>	Rice
<u>Other frozen fruits</u>	Apples

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

<u>Canned berries</u>	<u>Frozen fruits</u>
<u>Canned cherries</u>	*Frozen peas
<u>Canned pears</u>	Frozen lima beans
Other canned fruit	Canned salmon
Grape juice	Canned mackerel
Pineapple juice	<u>Canned pilchards</u>
*Canned asparagus	<u>Other canned fish</u>
*Canned dry beans	Cheese (group I only)
*Canned corn	Beef
*Canned peas	Veal
*Canned tomatoes	Lamb
Canned baby foods	Rice
*Jams	*Corn meal
*Jellies	*Corn grits
*Fruit butter	<u>Apples</u>
*Citrus fruit	*Other fresh fruits and vegetables

HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

<u>Canned berries</u>	*Dried prunes
Other canned fruits (except fruit cocktail)	Canned fish (all kinds)
Grape juice	Cheese
Pineapple juice	Beef
*Canned beets	Veal
*Canned spinach	Lamb
Tomato catsup	*Canned meats
<u>Frozen fruits</u>	Poultry
<u>Frozen lima beans</u>	Apples
*Other frozen vegetables	*Frozen corn



ALBANY, NEW YORK

<u>Canned berries</u>	*Dried prunes
<u>Canned cherries</u>	Canned salmon
<u>Canned fruit cocktail</u>	Other canned fish
Canned peaches	Cheese
<u>Canned pears</u>	Beef
Canned pineapple	Veal
Canned plums and prunes	Lamb
Grape juice	*Syrups
*Canned peas	Poultry
<u>Tomato catsup</u>	*Corn meal
*Jams	*Corn grits
*Jellies	Apples
<u>Frozen fruits</u>	

BUFFALO, NEW YORK

Canned pineapple	Cheese (group I only)
Frozen fruits	Beef
*Frozen peas	Veal
Canned salmon	Lamb
Canned tuna fish	*Milk, fluid
Butter	Poultry

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

Canned cherries	Beef
Canned pineapple	Veal
Pineapple juice	Lamb
Tomato catsup	* <u>Syrups</u>
Canned fish (all kinds)	Soaps
Cheese (groups I and III)	Apples

PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

Canned fruits (all kinds)	*Canned peas
Pineapple juice	Tomato catsup
Frozen fruits	Beef
Frozen lima beans	Veal
*Dried prunes	Lamb
*Raisins and currants	*Syrups
Canned fish (all kinds)	Poultry
Cheese	Apples

WILMINGTON, DELAWARE (incomplete report)

Canned berries  
Canned cherries  
Canned peaches  
Canned pears  
Grape juice  
Pineapple juice

Frozen fruits  
\*Frozen peas  
Cheese (Group I only)  
Beef  
Veal  
Lamb  
Apples

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

Canned fruit cocktail  
Canned plums and prunes  
Other canned fruits  
Grape juice  
Pineapple juice  
\*Canned asparagus  
\*Jams  
\*Jellies  
Frozen fruits  
\*Frozen peas  
Frozen lima beans

Canned salmon  
Canned mackerel  
Canned pilchards  
Other canned fish  
Cheese  
Veal  
Lamb  
Poultry  
Rice  
Soaps  
Apples

CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA

Canned berries  
Canned cherries  
Canned pears  
Other canned fruits  
Grape juice  
Pineapple juice  
Tomato catsup  
\*Tomato juice  
Canned baby foods  
Frozen fruits

Canned salmon  
Canned mackerel  
Cheese  
Beef  
Veal  
Lamb  
\*Syrups  
\*Corn grits  
Soaps  
Apples

CLEVELAND, OHIO

Canned berries  
Canned cherries  
Canned fruit cocktail  
Canned peaches  
Canned pears  
Canned pineapple  
Grape juice  
Pineapple juice  
\*Canned asparagus  
Tomato catsup  
\*Tomato juice  
Frozen fruits  
\*Frozen peas  
Frozen lima beans

\*Frozen corn  
\*Frozen spinach  
\*Other frozen vegetables  
\*Dried prunes  
\*Raisins and currants  
Canned mackerel  
Other canned fish (all kinds)  
Cheese (Group I only)  
Veal  
Lamb  
\*Syrups  
Rice  
Soaps  
Apples

CINCINNATI, OHIO

Canned fruits (except fruit cocktail)	Canned fish
Grape juice	Cheese
Pineapple juice	Beef
Tomato catsup	*Syrups
Frozen berries	Poultry
*Dry beans	*Corn meal
	Apples

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

<u>Canned berries</u>	Tomato catsup
<u>Canned cherries</u>	<u>Frozen fruits</u>
<u>Canned fruit cocktail</u>	<u>Canned salmon</u>
Canned peaches	Other canned fish
Canned pears	Apples
Canned pineapple	

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

<u>Canned berries</u>	Frozen fruits
Other canned fruits (except fruit cocktail)	Canned fish (except salmon)
Grape juice	Beef
Pineapple juice	Veal
Canned baby foods	Poultry
	Rice
	Apples

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

<u>Canned berries</u>	Canned salmon
<u>Canned cherries</u>	<u>Other canned fish (tuna)</u>
Other canned fruits	Cheese (Group I only)
Grape juice	Lamb
Pineapple juice	*Syrups
Tomato catsup	Poultry
*Jams	*Corn meal
*Jellies	*Corn grits
Frozen lima beans	Soaps
*Frozen string beans	Apples

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Canned fruits (all kinds)	Cheese (Group I only)
<u>Grape juice</u>	Evaporated milk
Pineapple juice	Lamb
Tomato catsup	*Syrups
Canned baby foods	Poultry
Frozen fruits	Soaps
*Raisins and currants	Apples
	*Citrus fruit



MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Canned berries  
Canned cherries  
 Other canned fruit (except peaches)  
Grape juice  
Pineapple juice  
Tomato catsup  
 \*Tomato juice  
 \*Canned soups  
 Canned baby foods  
Frozen fruits

Canned salmon  
 Canned mackerel  
 Canned pilchards  
Other canned fish  
 Cheese (Groups I and II)  
 Beef  
 Veal  
 Lamb  
 Soaps  
 Apples  
 \*Citrus fruit

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

Canned cherries  
Canned plums and prunes  
 \*Canned asparagus  
 Tomato catsup  
 \*Tomato juice  
 Other canned fruit  
 Canned baby foods

\*Jams  
 \*Jellies  
 \*Fruit butter  
 Canned salmon  
 Other canned fish  
 Cheese  
 Veal  
 Apples

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

Canned berries  
Canned cherries  
 Canned fruit cocktail  
 Canned peaches  
 Canned pears  
 Grape juice  
 Pineapple juice  
 \*Canned asparagus  
 \*Canned beets

\*Jellies  
 \*Fruit butter  
Frozen fruits  
 Canned salmon  
 Other canned fish  
 Cheese  
 Evaporated milk  
 Beef  
 Soaps  
 Apples

OMAHA, NEBRASKA

Canned fruits (all kinds)  
 \*Grapefruit juice  
Grape juice  
Pineapple juice  
 \*Canned asparagus  
 \*Canned dry beans  
 \*Canned green and wax beans  
 \*Canned beets  
 \*Canned peas  
 Tomato catsup  
 \*Tomato juice  
 \*Canned soups  
 Canned baby foods  
 \*Jams  
 \*Jellies

\*Fruit butter  
Frozen fruits  
 \*Frozen peas  
 \*Dried prunes  
 \*Raisins and currants  
 \*Dry beans  
 Canned fish (all kinds)  
 Butter  
 \*Margarine  
 Cheese  
 Evaporated milk  
Veal  
Soaps  
Apples  
 Citrus fruit  
 \*Other frozen vege-  
 tables  
 \*Syrups  
 Poultry

NORFOLK, VIRGINIA (HAMPTON ROADS)

Canned berries  
Other canned fruit  
Grape juice  
Pineapple juice  
Tomato catsup  
Frozen fruits  
\*Frozen corn, kernel  
\*Dried prunes

Canned fish (all kinds)  
Butter  
Cheese  
Beef  
Veal  
\*Corn meal  
Soaps

CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

Canned fruit cocktail  
Canned pineapple  
Canned plums and prunes  
Other canned fruit  
Grape juice  
Pineapple juice  
Frozen fruit  
\*Frozen vegetables (all kinds)

Canned fish (all kinds)  
Butter  
Cheese  
Evaporated milk  
Beef  
Veal  
Lamb  
Soaps  
Apples

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

Canned berries  
Canned cherries  
Other canned fruit  
Grape juice  
Pineapple juice  
Tomato catsup  
Frozen fruits  
Frozen lima beans  
Canned salmon

Canned mackerel  
Canned pilchards  
Butter  
Cheese  
Evaporated milk  
Beef  
Veal  
Lamb  
Soaps  
Apples

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

Canned berries  
Other canned fruit  
Grape juice  
Pineapple juice  
Tomato catsup  
\*Jams  
Frozen fruits  
\*Frozen vegetables (all kinds)

Canned mackerel  
Other canned fish  
Butter  
Cheese  
Evaporated milk  
Poultry  
Soaps  
Apples

MIAMI, FLORIDA

Canned berries  
Canned cherries  
Canned pears  
Other canned fruit  
Pineapple juice  
Canned baby foods  
Frozen berries  
Other frozen fruit  
Frozen lima beans  
\*Frozen corn, kernel  
\*Raisins and currants  
Canned salmon

Other canned fish  
Cheese (Group I only)  
Rice  
Soaps  
Apples

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

Canned berries  
Canned cherries  
Other canned fruit  
Grape juice  
Pineapple juice  
Tomato catsup  
Canned baby foods

Frozen fruits  
Canned fish  
Cheese  
Beef  
\*Syrups  
Poultry  
Soaps

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

Canned fruit (except fruit cocktail)  
Tomato catsup  
\*Dried prunes  
\*Raisins and currants

Canned fish  
Cheese (Group I only)  
Beef  
Soaps  
Onions

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

Canned berries  
Canned cherries  
Other canned fruit (except  
plums and prunes)  
Grape juice  
Tomato catsup  
Canned baby foods  
Canned salmon

Other canned fish  
Cheese (except Group I)  
Evaporated milk  
Beef  
Veal  
\*Syrups  
\*Corn meal  
\*Corn grits  
Soaps

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Canned berries  
Canned cherries  
Other canned fruit  
Grape juice  
Pineapple juice  
Tomato catsup  
Canned baby foods  
\*Jams  
\*Jellies  
Frozen fruits  
\*Frozen vegetables (all kinds listed)

\*Dried prunes  
Canned fish (all kinds)  
Butter  
Cheese  
Evaporated milk  
Beef  
Veal  
Poultry  
Rice  
Soaps  
Apples

MOBILE, ALABAMA

Canned berries  
Canned cherries  
Canned pears  
Tomato catsup  
\*Jams  
\*Jellies  
Frozen fruits

Butter  
Evaporated milk  
Poultry  
Soaps  
Apples  
\*Frozen vegetables (all kinds)  
Canned fish (all kinds)  
Cheese  
\*Milk, fluid

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

<u>Canned berries</u>	*Frozen vegetables (all kinds listed)
Other canned fruit	Canned salmon
Grape juice	Cheese
Pineapple juice	Evaporated milk
Tomato catsup	Poultry
*Canned soups	Rice
*Canned baby foods	*Corn meal
*Jams	Soaps
*Jellies	Apples
Frozen berries	Onions

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

<u>Canned berries</u>	*Frozen peas
Other canned fruit (except plums and prunes)	<u>Frozen lima beans</u>
Grape juice	* <u>Frozen corn, kernel</u>
Pineapple juice	Canned salmon
Tomato catsup	Other canned fish
Canned baby foods	Cheese
*Fruit spreads (except marmalade)	Veal
<u>Frozen berries</u>	Poultry
Other frozen fruits	Soaps

WICHITA, KANSAS

<u>Canned berries</u>	Canned salmon
<u>Canned cherries</u>	Evaporated milk
Canned pineapple	Poultry
Grape juice	Rice
Tomato catsup	Soaps
*Fruit spreads (except marmalade)	Apples

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

Canned fruit (all kinds)	Other canned fish
Grape juice	Cheese (Groups I and III)
Pineapple juice	Evaporated milk
*Canned asparagus	Beef
Tomato catsup	Veal
*Tomato juice	*Syrups
*Canned soups	<u>Rice</u>
*Fruit spreads (except marmalade)	*Corn meal
<u>Frozen lima beans</u>	*Corn grits
* <u>Frozen corn, kernel</u>	Soaps
*Frozen string beans	Apples
<u>Canned salmon</u>	Onions



HOUSTON, TEXAS

Canned berries  
Canned cherries  
Canned pears  
Canned pineapple  
Grape juice  
Pineapple juice  
Frozen fruits  
\*Dried prunes

Canned fish (except mackerel)  
\*Salad oils  
Cheese  
Beef  
Veal  
Rice  
Apples

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

Canned cherries  
Other canned fruit  
Grape juice  
Pineapple juice  
Tomato catsup  
Canned baby foods  
\*Fruit butter

Canned fish (all kinds)  
Butter  
Cheese (Group I only)  
Evaporated milk  
Veal  
Rice  
\*Corn grits

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS

Canned berries  
Canned cherries  
Canned peaches  
Canned pears  
Canned pineapple  
Grape juice  
\*Canned soups  
Canned baby foods

Frozen fruits  
Canned salmon  
Cheese  
Evaporated milk  
\*Milk, fluid  
Poultry  
Rice  
Soaps  
Apples

DENVER, COLORADO

Canned fruits (except plums  
and prunes)  
Grape juice  
Pineapple juice  
Frozen fruits  
Canned fish  
\*Salad oils

Cheese  
Beef  
Veal  
\*Syrups  
\*Corn meal  
\*Corn grits  
Apples

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

Canned berries  
Canned cherries  
Canned pears  
Canned pineapple  
Grape juice  
Pineapple juice  
\*Canned asparagus  
\*Canned soups

Canned baby foods  
Frozen fruits  
Canned salmon  
Other canned fish  
Evaporated milk  
Beef  
Veal  
Poultry  
Rice  
Soaps  
Apples



HELENA, MONTANA

Canned berries  
Canned cherries  
Canned pineapple  
Frozen berries

Canned mackerel  
Cheese (Group II only)  
Rice  
Soaps  
Apples

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

Canned berries  
Canned pineapple  
Grape juice  
Pineapple juice  
Tomato catsup  
Frozen berries

Canned salmon  
Other canned fish  
Butter  
Cheese  
Veal  
Soaps  
Onions

PHOENIX, ARIZONA

Canned berries  
Canned cherries  
Canned pineapple  
Grape juice  
Pineapple juice  
\*Canned soups  
Canned baby foods  
Frozen fruits  
Frozen lima beans  
\*Frozen corn, kernel

Canned salmon  
Other canned fish  
Cheese  
Beef  
Veal  
Poultry  
Rice  
Apples  
\*Citrus fruit  
Onions

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

Canned berries  
Canned pineapple  
Grape juice  
Pineapple juice  
\*Canned soups  
\*Fruit butter

Frozen fruits  
\*Frozen vegetables (all kinds)  
Canned salmon  
Rice  
Apples

SPOKANE, WASHINGTON

Canned berries  
Other canned fruit (except  
cherries and plums and prunes)  
Grape juice  
Pineapple juice  
\*Canned asparagus  
\*Canned spinach  
Frozen berries

Canned salmon  
Cheese  
Veal  
Lamb  
Soaps  
Apples  
Onions

PORTLAND, OREGON

Grape juice  
Pineapple juice  
\*Canned asparagus  
Frozen fruits  
Other canned fish

Cheese  
Veal  
Lamb  
\*Syrups  
Apples

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

Canned berries  
\*Grapefruit juice  
Pineapple juice  
Frozen berries  
Other frozen fruits

Canned fish (all kinds)  
Cheese  
Lamb  
Poultry  
Apples

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

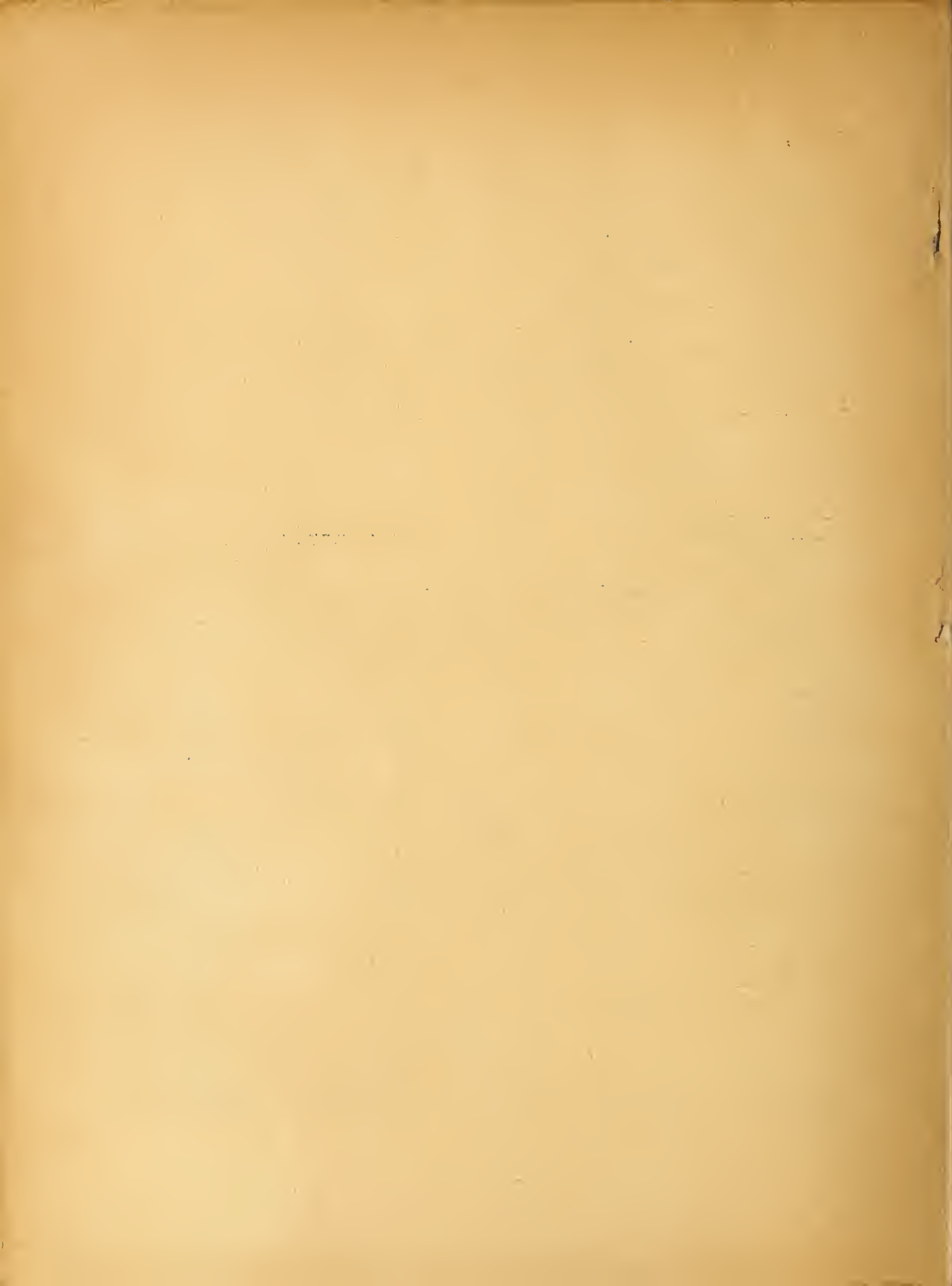
Canned berries  
Canned cherries  
Canned pears  
Canned pineapple  
Canned plums and prunes  
Grape juice  
Pineapple juice  
\*Canned asparagus  
\*Canned soups

Canned baby foods  
Frozen fruits  
Frozen vegetables (except peas  
and spinach)  
Canned mackerel  
Other canned fish  
Cheese (Groups I and III)  
Cheese (Group II)  
\*Syrups  
Apples

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

Canned berries  
Canned cherries  
Canned fruit cocktail  
Canned pineapple  
Grape juice  
Pineapple juice  
\*Canned asparagus  
Frozen fruits  
\*Frozen peas  
Frozen lima beans  
Other frozen vegetables

\*Dried prunes  
\*Raisins  
Canned fish (all kinds)  
Cheese  
\*Syrups  
Poultry  
Rice  
Soaps  
Apples



WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION  
Office of Distribution  
Civilian Food Requirements Branch

RESTRICTED

ADEQUACY OF FOOD SUPPLIES IN MAY 1944

All regions used the new form FDA-724 on Adequacy of Food Supplies, breaking down reports into four categories: No Stocks, Scarce, Adequate, and Surplus. Approximately 270 areas are covered by this report. Generally speaking, the new form seems to have been received very favorably and the results are very satisfactory. Most area supervisors prepared narrative reports which contain much useful information both on food shortages and surpluses as well as on consumer reaction to rationing.

I. Processed Foods

Regional Situation

In the Northeast canned and frozen berries and baby fruits are reported to be generally unobtainable, while most canned fruits and juices are scarce. Frozen fruits and catsup are also scarce. Canned snap beans are in surplus. The Midwest finds supplies improved for soups and spreads, but less adequate for canned peaches, pineapple juice, asparagus, tomato juice and canned fish. All canned fruit and most juices remain scarce, as do catsup, baby fruits and frozen fruits. The South still emphasizes the shortage of canned fruits. Canned vegetables are in adequate supply. In the West canned berries, pineapple, and grape and pineapple juice are scarce. Baby fruits are also in inadequate supply, while the movement of frozen foods is very rapid.

Canned Fruits

Generally speaking, all canned fruits remain scarce throughout the nation. Canned Berries continue to be the most scarce processed food everywhere, and on a nationwide basis 63 percent of all areas report no stocks available and an additional 31 percent find supplies scarce. This situation varies very little among the different regions. Cherries also are extremely scarce everywhere. Half of the areas in the nation report no stocks and 42 percent more consider supplies scarce -- a total of 91 percent on the inadequate side. Of the four important canned fruits -- fruit cocktail, peaches, pears, and pineapple -- pears are most often reported as "no stocks." Twenty-six percent of all areas fall under this classification, with the situation most acute in the Northeast and South. Another 55 percent of all areas find supplies scarce. In the case of pineapple, an overwhelming majority of reports -- 71 percent of the total -- show scarcities, and this situation is very



uniform among the different regions, including the West where most canned fruits have been considered adequate or in surplus. Reports of no stocks account for 16 percent more of areas. The status of peaches and fruit cocktail is practically identical, and on a nationwide basis 14 percent of areas show no stocks while 56 percent show scarce supplies. With respect to these two commodities, the shortage is most acute in the southern and central belts of the country. There appears to be a moderate scarcity of plums and prunes, with 43 percent of reports falling under the heading of scarce and slightly more in the adequate column. It appears definitely that this situation represents an acceleration in movement over recent months.

### Fruit Juices

Eighty-four percent of all areas throughout the country indicate that supplies of grapefruit juice are adequate, and there is no significant variation among the different regions. Of the remaining areas, 10 percent show a surplus and 6 percent a scarcity. On the other hand, both grape juice and pineapple juice are in considerable scarcity, almost two-thirds of the nation's areas reporting both commodities as scarce. Grape juice is unobtainable in another 19 percent of areas and pineapple juice in 14 percent. The greatest difficulty in obtaining supplies of grape juice has taken place in the Southwest where 31 percent of reports designate no stocks, while in the West the high proportion of 74 percent report scarcities. As for pineapple juice, the same two regions show abnormal levels of depleted stocks, one-fourth of the Western areas and one-fifth of the Southwestern areas being out of stocks.

### Canned Vegetables

Of the eight types of canned vegetables now being reported on, asparagus is difficult to obtain. One-fourth of all areas reports a scarcity of this item and three percent are unable to obtain stocks; the proportion of areas reporting scarcities ranges from 17 percent in the Northeast to 31 percent in the Midwest. On the other hand, supplies of none of the other six major vegetables which are now point-free -- snap beans, beets, corn, peas, spinach, and tomatoes -- show any significant tendency to run short. Spinach and tomatoes are scarce in a mere 6 or 7 percent of all areas; peas and corn in 5 percent; snap beans in surplus in 24 percent of areas; tomatoes in 13 percent; peas in 12 percent; and beets and spinach in 10 percent. Grades other than fancy or top quality are still moving slowly in many places. Total per capita consumption has increased sharply for most of these vegetables. Canned dry beans, now selling at 10 points a pound, are reported in adequate supply in 86 percent of all areas, in surplus in 8 percent and scarce or unobtainable in 6 percent. Distribution of this item seems to be uniformly good over the country.

Despite the drastic increase in the point value of tomato catsup a month ago, supplies are generally insufficient to maintain the current rate of sales. One hundred fifty-six areas in the country, or 59 per-



cent of the total reporting this month, indicate a scarcity of this product, and 17 percent more are unable to obtain supplies. The situation is most acute in the Northeast, Midwest, and South; in the Midwest 92 percent of reports say that supplies are scarce or unobtainable. Practically all state narratives except in the West pointed to the scarcity of this product. Supplies of tomato juice are reported as adequate in 71 percent of the nation's areas, with this proportion varying from 60 percent in the Midwest to 96 percent in the West. Most remaining reports fall into the "scarce" column. Many state reports point out the scarcity of this commodity. Soups show a fairly discernible tendency to be scarce everywhere. About fifteen percent of Southern and Northeastern areas report difficulty in obtaining stocks, around 26 percent in the West and Midwest, and 40 percent in the Southwest. This represents a national average of 22 percent of all reports in the scarcity column. There is evidence that only specific types of soup are short. Practically all remaining reports are on the adequate side. As many as 60 percent of all areas report supplies of baby foods adequate, but most individual area reports this month noted on the report form that fruits were unobtainable. It is very likely that at least 75 percent of all areas have no stocks of baby fruits. Reported scarcities of baby foods as a whole are most frequent in the Southwest, and to a lesser degree in the Midwest and South.

#### Spreads

There is very little difference between the supply situation for jams and that for jellies. Supplies of both jams and jellies are reported as adequate in 68 percent of the country, with no region falling below the 60 percent figure registered for jellies in the Southwest. Most remaining reports - around 70 areas out of 268 - are in the scarce column, with the Southwest having the most difficulty in obtaining supplies. In each region, there is little difference between the proportion of "scarce" reports in May and the proportion of "fast" reports in April. The West and Midwest specifically report supplies as improved. Fruit butter is in a little better supply, with only 16 percent of all areas reporting "scarce" and 3 percent unobtainable. Citrus marmalades are still in considerable surplus, 99 areas finding excesses as against 161 areas with adequate stocks. In all regions except the Northeast, there are fewer reports of surpluses than a month previously. A perusal of state and area narrative reports indicates that the total spread situation is rather spotty everywhere, with uneven distribution.

#### Frozen Foods

One of the most marked characteristics of the processed food situation this month is the great difference between frozen vegetables and frozen fruits with respect to available supplies. Vegetables are adequate to meet most demands everywhere (except perhaps in the South), while fruits are almost universally scarce or unobtainable. Frozen berries are reported as out of stock in 104 areas and scarce in 99 areas, a total repre-

senting 89 percent of the nation's areas carrying this commodity. This situation varies little among the different regions, and most states consider the item generally unavailable. Other frozen fruits are a little better, 80 areas being out of stock and 107 finding supplies scarce, or 84 percent of the country. For this group, the Southwest is particularly pressed for supplies. The May 1 cold storage report indicates that holdings of frozen fruits as a whole have not declined any more than the normal seasonal drop, and the gap between the 1942-43 and the 1943-44 monthly curves which was created late in 1943 is not being reduced. Total fruit holdings stood at 131 million pounds on May 1, as compared with 161 million a month before, 227 million on January 1, and 99 million a year ago. "Other fruits" still represent half of all frozen fruit holdings, but holdings are still declining more than seasonally. Blueberry stocks also are dropping off more rapidly than is usual at this time of year. Frozen vegetables are generally adequate to scarce everywhere. Lima beans are the most scarce, 30 percent of all areas reporting scarcities and 10 percent no stocks. This is largely due to the situation in the South where half of areas find this item scarce and 13 percent unobtainable. Peas are scarce in 26 percent and out of stock in 9; corn scarce in 25 percent and out of stock in 9. String beans and spinach are in more adequate supply. Cold storage holdings of vegetables are continuing their rather steep decline but they are still substantially ahead of 1942 and 1943 levels, and totalled 105 million pounds on May 1 as compared with 130 million pounds a month earlier and 186 million on January 1. A year ago only 62 million pounds were reported in cold storage. Peas which are quantitatively the most important of the vegetables listed on the cold storage report, have declined very rapidly since the beginning of the year and holdings are now rather close to the May 1, 1943 level. "Other vegetables" and unclassified vegetables, accounting for almost half of all vegetable holdings, dropped sharply during April but still are way ahead of previous years.

#### Dried Foods

Dried prunes, raisins and currants, all point-free, are adequate in 71 percent of reporting areas and scarce in most of the others. The South reports prunes scarce in 40 percent of its areas and raisins and currants in 37 percent; in the Southwest the two figures are 23 and 29 percent, respectively. With the coming of warm weather and the desire to reduce shelf stocks, these reported scarcities are to be expected. Supplies of dry beans are reported adequate in 87 percent of all areas, with the lowest figure anywhere being the 84 percent from the Midwest. There are almost as many "surplus" as "scarce" reports.



## II. Meats, Fats and Oils, Fish and Dairy Products

### Regional Situation

In general, supplies of beef, veal, lamb, and cheeses are scarcest in the Northeast, with the South and then the Southwest following behind in order of decreasing scarcity, while the Midwest is experiencing only moderate scarcities and the West none at all. Beef is the scarcest meat, veal the next scarcest, then lamb. Pork and other meats are adequate to surplus. Canned fish is scarce everywhere.

### Fats and Oils

Butter: Supplies of butter are reported to be adequate everywhere except in the South. In the latter region, almost two-thirds of reporting areas find supplies scarce, but in the other regions at least 79 percent of areas consider supplies adequate to meet demand.

Margarine: There is no scarcity whatsoever of this commodity. In the southern and western sections of the country, supplies are adequate in around 95 percent of all areas, while in the Northeast there is a surplus in 10 out of 53 areas.

Lard: There is still a considerable surplus of lard. This situation is most acute in the Northeast, where over three-fifths of areas report excessive supplies. In other regions from 15 to 30 percent of reports are in the surplus column.

Shortening: Supplies of this item are adequate in at least 84 percent of the areas in every region and in surplus in most remaining.

Salad Oils: About the same situation prevails.

Cheeses: The proportion of areas reporting scarcities ranges generally between 60 and 80 percent, with a majority of remaining areas reporting no stocks at all. The shortage is most pronounced in the South and West. Of the three types of cheese, Group II (cream cheeses) are easiest to obtain and Group I (cheddar) most difficult.

Evaporated Milk: It is now more clear than ever that the critical situation with respect to evaporated milk is entirely confined to the South and Southwest. In the South 66 out of 82 areas find supplies scarce, but many areas report that the situation is improving and is expected to continue thus. In the Southwest, slightly over two-thirds of areas report supplies scarce. The Midwest still experience difficulties in obtaining adequate supplies, almost one-third of areas reporting them scarce. On the other hand, supplies are adequate in 82 percent of Northeastern areas and in 100 percent of Western areas.

Meats and Canned Fish: There is only a small amount of evidence as to the reaction of the public and the trade to the removal of points from most meats on May 4. A perusal of these analyses indicates that, generally speaking, there were adequate supplies of all meats on hand except for the better grades of beef. Pork supplies were definitely adequate to surplus and there were many expressions of

desire for action to move pork supplies more rapidly.

Beef: All steaks are reported very scarce everywhere except in the West. The extent of these scarcities for loin and round reaches 62 percent in the Southwest and over 80 percent in the South and Northeast, while the situation is slightly less serious in the case of other beef steaks. In the producing Midwest over two-fifths of all areas consider supplies scarce. In the West only three or four areas have any difficulty in obtaining adequate supplies. In the roasts group, rump is the most scarce item, with rib and chuck following closely behind. In every case, scarcities of roasts are most pronounced in the Northeast where 67 to 78 percent of areas have inadequate supplies, while in the South the range is 57 to 71 percent and in the Southwest 31 to 52 percent. Thirty-five percent of Midwestern areas report supplies inadequate. Stews and other cuts are scarce in around two-fifths of areas in the Northeast and South, but present a less serious problem in other regions. Hamburger is also slightly scarce in the Northeast and South.

Veal: On a nationwide basis, steaks and chops are adequate in 46 percent of all areas, roasts in around 51 percent, and stews and other cuts in 55 percent. In most remaining areas, supplies are reported scarce. The situation with respect to all of these cuts is most acute in the Northeast, where scarcities are reported for steaks and chops in 71 percent of areas. The intensity of the scarcity problem is above average in the South and Southwest, but somewhat below average in the West and of relatively little consequence in the Midwest.

Lamb and Mutton: There is comparatively little difference in the situation for the different lamb cuts. Supplies are adequate in around 57 percent of the areas throughout the country and scarce in most others. Supplies of all cuts, however, are very scarce in practically the entire Northeast, even more so than for any other type of meat. In the South 40 percent of areas report scarcities; in the Midwest about 23 percent.

Pork: Supplies of all cuts of pork are adequate in all parts of the country and run toward surpluses in many cases.

Miscellaneous: The same situation found in the case of pork applies to ready-to-eat meats, sausages, and variety meats. However, there are a few complaints of scarcities of canned meats, particularly in the South and Northeast. There is some evidence that luncheon meats are the item causing any difficulties complained of.

Canned Fish: All types of canned fish are reported as considerably scarce. Salmon supplies are scarce in 58 percent of areas in the United States, with little variation among the regions in the intensity of this scarcity situation. In addition, 24 percent of areas report no stocks at all, with this condition most acute in the South and Southwest. Mackerel and pilchards are scarce in almost half of all reporting areas and unobtainable in an additional 18 percent of areas.

Despite the removal of most meats from the point value list, some comments are made indicating that demand for rationed canned fish is still high and exceeds the available supply.

### III. Unrationed Foods

Fluid milk, peanut butter, macaroni and other paste products, soy flour and flakes, fresh citrus fruit, and Irish potatoes are generally in adequate supply. With the exception of milk and citrus, there are moderate surpluses of all running around 10 to 20 percent of reporting areas. Irish potatoes are, however, in considerable abundance in the Northeast and Midwest, 35 percent of reports from these regions showing excess supplies. Eggs are very abundant everywhere--they are reported as surplus in three-fifths of the nation's areas--with conditions most serious in the Northeast, Midwest, and Southwest.

On the other hand, syrups, poultry, rice, corn meal, corn grits, soaps, apples, and onions are reported scarce. Soaps are the most acute item, scarcities being reported in 68 percent of United States areas; this proportion reaches 94 percent in the South; but is only 40 percent in the Northeast and 48 percent in the West. However, practically no areas are unable to obtain stocks. Syrups are another very scarce commodity, with two-fifths of reports in this column and little variation among regions in the intensity of the shortage. Poultry is also difficult to obtain in around 30 to 40 percent of all regions. Rice varies somewhat by section, being scarce in over half of the Southwest and West, but less scarce in other regions. Corn meal and grits are short in around a third of the heavy-consuming South and Southwest, but are more adequate in the Northeast and Midwest and present no problem in the West. Apples are seasonally scarce, with all regions turning in around 65 percent of "scarce" reports and 10 percent of "no stocks." Onions, extremely scarce a month ago, were hard to obtain in only slightly over a quarter of the nation's areas during the first week of May, but supplies have since been moving rapidly into retail markets and are now in surplus in some places.



